

**Chairman Yasser Arafat of the  
Palestinian Authority**

**Q.** [*Inaudible*—of Israel Channel Two. Mr. President, there's a wide concern within the Israel Government that, after the next terror bombs, there should be an expelling of Arafat from the region. What do you think about it? Do you think it's fruitful—a fruitful move that will, as you said, would merge the terrorists and the Palestinian side? Or it's a destructive move that will hurt the peace process?

**President Bush.** I don't think Mr. Arafat is the issue.

**Q.** He is the issue—

**President Bush.** Excuse me for a minute. Let me start over. I don't think Mr. Arafat is the issue. I think the issue is the Palestinian people. And as I have expressed, myself, I am disappointed that he has not led in such a way that the Palestinian people have hope and confidence. And so, therefore, what we've got to do is work to put institutions in place which will allow for a government to develop which will bring confidence not only to Israelis but the Palestinians.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

**Arrest of Abdullah al Muhajir**

**Q.** Mr. President, sir, what can you tell us about this dirty-bomb plot? Is there still a threat? And if this had happened, was Washington, DC, the target?

**President Bush.** I can tell you that we have a man detained who is a threat to the country and that, thanks to the vigilance of our intelligence gathering and law enforcement, he is now off the streets, where he should be. And I'll let the Defense Department, Justice Department comment on the specifics.

**Regional Ministerial Peace Summit**

**Q.** [*Inaudible*—Radio. Mr. President, I would like to hear your view about the regional summit we all discussed. Do you think that this regional summit should be based on the Security Council Number 1397, calling to establish a Palestinian state, which you mention in your vision? Or do you think it just should be based on the 242 and 338 Resolution that we all know about?

**President Bush.** Look, I think—here's the thing: I think that we need to have a—well, first of all, let's get the summit in context. You're talking about the proposed summit this summer, a ministerial summit of people that come together to work toward the conditions necessary to establish a peace. See, the conditions aren't even there yet—that's because no one has confidence in the emerging Palestinian government.

And so, first things first, and that is, what institutions are necessary to give the Palestinian people hope and to give the Israelis confidence that the emerging government will be someone with whom they can deal? And that's going to require security steps, transparency when it comes to economic matters, anticorruption devices, rule of law enforced by a court system.

Now, it is very important for people to understand that as these steps are taken, as this—people work together to achieve the institutions necessary for peace, that there is a political process on the horizon as well. But the ministerial meetings that the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, suggested are all aimed at achieving—working toward the foundation necessary for there to be confidence and eventual peace.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, President Bush referred to Abdullah al Muhajir, formerly known as Jose Padilla, a U.S. citizen and suspected terrorist who was arrested on May 8 in Chicago, IL.

**Remarks at the International  
Democratic Union Leaders Dinner**

*June 10, 2002*

If I may have your attention for a minute, please. It is a great pleasure for me to welcome the International Democratic Union's members and its new chairman, Prime Minister of Australia John Howard. And it's my pleasure to thank the outgoing chairman, William Hague, for his outstanding leadership.

With us this evening are IDU members from 40 nations, including five current heads of state or government, and nine former

heads of state or government. The presence of so many distinguished world leaders is a remarkable testament to the power and attractiveness of our ideas.

More than a century ago, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir William Harcourt, declared, "We're all socialists now." [Laughter] Today, it's fair to say, we're all democratic capitalists now. The democratic capitalists' vision of a free and just and compassionate society has captured the imagination of the world. Free markets, free governments, and free societies are not American ideas; they're not European or Western ideas; they're universal ideas. And they inspire all the member parties of the International Democratic Union.

The historical record is clear: Economic systems that put freedom first have achieved greater levels of equality and well-being than systems that seek to strengthen the power of the state and stifle economic liberty. That's the record. But while the ideas the IDU stands for have made unprecedented gains, the free societies we love face unprecedented threats.

We face coldblooded killers that hate the freedoms we cherish, and with the spread of chemical and biological and nuclear weapons, along with ballistic missile technology, freedom's enemies could attain catastrophic power. And there's no doubt that they would use that power to attack us and to attack the values we uphold.

It is our commitment to freedom and human dignity and the strong belief that each individual matters that sets our enemies against us and draws our friends together in a great coalition of liberty. We will oppose the new totalitarians with all our power. We will hunt them down one by one and bring them to justice.

And we must never hate—hesitate to speak for what we believe. We believe we fight an enemy that is barbaric and that is evil. We believe targeting innocent civilians for murder is always and everywhere wrong; and political, social, and economic freedoms are always and everywhere right.

The war on terror will be long and it will be dangerous. It will require us to be patient and steadfast and clear about what we're fighting for. We fight for the nonnegotiable

demands of human dignity: The rule of law; limits on the power of the state; respect for women; respect for private property; and free speech and equal justice and religious tolerance.

And so I'd like you to join me in a toast for the ideas which we all share, and for the great hope to replace poverty and repression and resentment with the promise of a better day for everyone who inhabits this Earth.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:03 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House.

### **Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report of the Commodity Credit Corporation**

*June 4, 2002*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with the provisions of section 13, Public Law 806, 80th Congress (15 U.S.C. 714k), I transmit herewith the report of the Commodity Credit Corporation for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
June 4, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 11.

### **Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report of the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee**

*June 6, 2002*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

As required by section 108(b) of Public Law 98-373 (15 U.S.C. 4107(b)), I transmit herewith the Ninth Biennial Report of the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (February 1, 2000, to January 31, 2002).

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
June 6, 2002.